

Senate Bill No. 1390

CHAPTER 432

An act to add Section 60605.1 to the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

[Approved by Governor September 12, 2000. Filed
with Secretary of State September 13, 2000.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1390, Murray. Pupil instruction: visual and performing arts.

Existing law requires the adopted course of study for grades 1 to 12, inclusive, to include instruction, beginning in grade 1 and continuing through grade 12, in certain prescribed areas of study, including, but not limited to, visual and performing arts, including instruction in the subjects of art and music, aimed at the development of aesthetic appreciation and the skills of creative expression.

Existing law, to be repealed on January 1, 2003, establishes the Local Arts Education Partnership Program to provide grants to local arts agencies, including school districts, to develop a locally based approach to the improvement of arts education in the public schools.

Existing law, the Leroy Greene California Assessment of Academic Achievement Act, requires the State Board of Education to adopt statewide academically rigorous content standards, pursuant to recommendations of the Commission for the Establishment of Academic Content and Performance Standards, in the core curriculum areas of reading, writing, mathematics, history, social science, and science, to serve as the basis for assessing the academic achievement of individual pupils and of schools, school districts, and the California education system. Existing law also requires the board to adopt statewide performance standards in those areas.

This bill would make legislative findings and declarations concerning the value of visual and performing arts. The bill would require the board to adopt content standards for visual and performing arts, pursuant to recommendations developed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, on or before June 1, 2001. The bill would prohibit anything in the bill from requiring a school to follow those content standards.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Evidence is growing that arts are critically important to education and learning. According to the College Entrance

Examination Board, students of the arts outperform nonarts educated peers on measures of academic ability. In 1995, the Scholastic Assessment Test scores of students who studied the arts for more than four years were 59 points higher on the verbal test and 44 points higher on the math test than the scores of students with no education in the arts.

(b) It has been shown that strong cognitive links exist between the arts and science. Such cognitive reasoning includes the ability to explore new concepts and associations, to understand abstract ideas, to build models and recognize patterns. Further arts education also contributes to student learning and achievement by enhancing motivation, self-discipline, and understanding of others, appreciation of diversity, a positive school climate, and preparation for the world of work.

(c) Jobs and careers that involve artistic expression are becoming increasingly important. According to the office of the Governor, the entertainment industry alone contributes more than twenty-five billion dollars (\$25,000,000,000) to the state's economy and generates more than six hundred million dollars (\$600,000,000) in state tax revenues.

(d) For these reasons and others, it is important that visual and performing arts instruction be available for all students in order to increase cognitive reasoning and improve student performance.

(e) The visual and performing arts are a required component of instruction for pupils in grades 1 to 6, inclusive. To graduate from high school, pupils must complete a year of a visual or performing arts instruction.

(f) As school districts implement or strengthen instructional programs in visual or performing arts, it is important that content standards be developed to ensure that schools will provide instruction that contains rigorous content to expand and improve pupil learning.

SEC. 2. Section 60605.1 is added to the Education Code, to read:

60605.1. (a) No later than June 1, 2001, the State Board of Education shall adopt content standards, pursuant to recommendations developed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in the curriculum area of visual and performing arts.

(b) The content standards are intended to provide a framework for programs that a school may offer in the instruction of visual or performing arts. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a school to follow the content standards.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed as mandating an assessment of pupils in visual or performing arts.